

SEP 17 1924 ✓

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THE CLEAN HEART ✓

Photoplay in 8 reels ✓

Story by A. S. M. Hutchinson ✓

Directed by J. Stuart Blackton ✓

Author of the photoplay (under section 62)
Vitagraph Company of America of U.S. ✓

*Ph. J. Marion
Constance*

SEP 17 1924

Synopsis of.....

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"THE CLEAN HEART."

A picture made by The Vitagraph Company of America, from the novel of this name, written by A. S. M. Hutchinson.

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Philip Wriford lives with his aunt and uncle near London, subject to the perpetual nagging of the aunt, and the annoyance of having to support his lazy uncle. He accepts a position with a London newspaper and hurries home to tell the glad news only to find that whatever benefits the new position give them, is more than offset- by the news his aunt has for him. Four orphaned children of his brother are left to Wriford to care for.

Wriford works unceasingly, forcing himself - always under pressure at the office and annoyances at home. He falls in love with a newspaper worker, Brida Morris, but a trip with her is postponed because the children need clothes - and he cannot afford both the trip and the clothes. He works with renewed vigor, winning his way to financial success, but paying for it with frayed nerves and a lack of mental balance which more and more manifests itself. People regard him as "a lucky one" and with every outward sign of success, he is complimented and laughed with. He imagines he is laughed at, however. Brida offers no comfort to him, and finally the tension breaks and Wriford becomes unbalanced. He rushes from the office, down to the embankment, when his imagination conjures his other self - an evil self.

Wriford runs, hoping to free himself of "his other self." All night long he runs, hatless, through the suburbs until he reached the country, still "pursued," and nearly exhausted. Here he meets Mr. Puddlebox, a drunkard, tramp and philosopher, who takes a liking to Wriford and shares his lunch with him. When Wriford tells of his "other self," Puddlebox tells him that he is loony and "spooked," and that he (Puddlebox) will unspook him. They leap on a passing wagon, hoping to leave the "spook" behind.

Thus begin weeks and months of companionship, in which the two are confessedly tramps. Wriford's dementia is given full play in his new unaccustomed freedom from worry and he commits pranks of all kinds. He robs a farm-house. Puddlebox fears prison and tries to put the valuables back, but is trapped by a farmer. Wriford flees in fear, only to be confronted by his "spook" which appears whenever Wriford is afraid - and thinks too much of himself. Wriford returns and he and Puddlebox best the farmer and his man. Wriford is pursued by a hired man and throws him into a ditch. Puddlebox is taken by a policeman, but Wriford tricks the officer and pushes him into the ditch also. The two make their getaway in an automobile, with the chauffeur unknowing of the passengers he has.

Puddlebox chides Wriford with the escapade, but Wriford tells Puddlebox that he doesn't care for anybody but himself, and he will do what he wants to do, regardless of the consequences. Puddlebox is sad in the thought that Wriford is still "unspooked."

They come to a rocky part of the coast, and Wriford decides to spend the night there. Puddlebox tries to persuade him to return to the warm inn in town, but Wriford refuses. Puddlebox tells of his affection for Wriford, but Wriford is so self-centered that he lets Puddlebox return to the town alone. Wriford leaps from a small cliff and sprains both legs so he hardly able to move. Puddlebox wait for him in the inn, and when he sees that a storm has risen, he relents and goes in search of Wriford. He fears the tide, and when he finally comes upon Wriford, Puddlebox sees that they are trapped in the rocky enclosure. Puddlebox has an indescribable fear of the sea, which makes his search all the more heroic. Wriford does not appreciate this, however, cursing him for the pain that Puddlebox inflicts when he tries to lift Wriford back into the rocky cave.

Puddlebox finds a tiny ledge above high-water mark, and, building himself a platform of rocks, manages to get Wriford on it. There is no room for two however. The tide rises and Puddlebox, unable longer to cling to Wriford without dragging him off the ledge, says he will swim to another ledge. Wriford asks him if he can swim, and Puddlebox assures him that he is expert. Puddlebox begs Wriford to unspook himself, to think of others, to have a clean heart. Then Puddlebox lets go of the ledge and is drowned while Wriford in helpless agony, watches.

Wriford, unconscious, is resuced and taken to the Port Rannock Hospital, where he is placed in the care of a probationary nurse, Essie Bickers. Wriford learns that Puddlebox's body had been recovered and had been buried in the churchyard at Port Rannock. He recuperated in body, but his mind is still distorted. He is dismissed from the hospital, and Essie, liking him, persuades him to board at their house. He meets her father and mother and obtains employment in the office.

Essie shows a tender interest in him and he finds in the companionship of the Bickers' and particularly Essie, that his spirits are returning. He takes her walking and kisses her. She likes it, but thinks that Wriford is only "having a game." Wriford develops a passion for her, and Essie believes that he wants to marry her. She consents to the engagement, but Wriford persuades her to keep it a secret. Wriford, meantime, has got in touch with his publishers and finds that his novel has made him rich. He sends for a large amount, explaining that he wants to take a trip on the Continent. He sees how completely Essie loves him, and believing that she will consent to his plan - to go away and live with him without marriage, he sends the letter. Essie's assumption that she will be a bride, irks him. She wants to tell her parents and he promises that on the morrow she can do so. He has told her that he is rich, showing her his novel. She ridicules the passages in it and he senses further the gulf between them.

The next day they walk on the cliffs, and are overtaken by a rainstorm. They seek refuge in a cottage, open for inspection, and Essie begs him to buy it so they can live there, close to her mother and father. Wriford shows her his ticket to London and says that he is never coming back. Then he shows her the one he has bought for her. She thinks he means to have her elope, but he disabuses her mind of this, asking her to go away and live with him. She is aghast at the thought of living in sin and moans her anguish as he pleads to tempt her. Suddenly his mood changes and he denounces her as common, and shows such contempt for her, that she runs in afright out of the house and along the cliffs. For the first time, sanity breaks through his clouded brain and he sees what he has done. He follows, to apologize and humble himself. Frightened, she flees, backing up to the cliff edge.

Her foot slips and he reaches her just in time to let her catch his hands. ~~She~~ Her weight starts to pull him over, and she seeing this, tells him that there is no use of both of them going over. With an interchange of love vows, she lets go and plunges down the rocks and water far below.

She is brought back home, unconscious, and the doctor says that there is no hope. If she regains consciousness, it will be but to die. Wriford watches by her bedside, seeing now what he has been. Two lives were given that he might understand his selfishness and lack of consideration of others. He decides upon his own punishment, to go away without knowing whether she lived or died. And so he goes.

Wriford lives a year in London, but his mind reverts to Port Rannock, - where Essie lived. He longs to again see the places he associates with her memory, and so journeys back. He stops by Fuddlebox's grave, and then looks around for Essie's headstone. Essie, alive, but in a wheel chair, is brought to the church yard by ~~her~~ her parents. Here Wriford finds her. She treats him as though there never had been anything wrong, and Wriford, thankful for the blessing, embraces her, as the story ends.

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Washington, D. C.

SEP 17 1924

Register of Copyrights
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I herewith respectfully request the return of the following
named motion picture films deposited by me for registration of
copyright in the name of **Vitagraph Co. of America**

The Clean Heart - 8 reels

Respectfully,

FULTON BRYLAWSKI

The **Vitagraph Co. of America**
hereby acknowledges the receipt of two copies each of the
motion picture films deposited and registered in the Copyright
Office as follows:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Date of Deposit</u>	<u>Registration</u>
The Clean Heart	9-17-24	©CIL 20583

The return of the above copies was requested by the said
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Sept. 1924 and the said Fulton Brylawski for himself, and as
the duly authorized agent and attorney of the said Company,
hereby acknowledges the delivery to him of said copies, and
the receipt thereof.

SEP 20 1924



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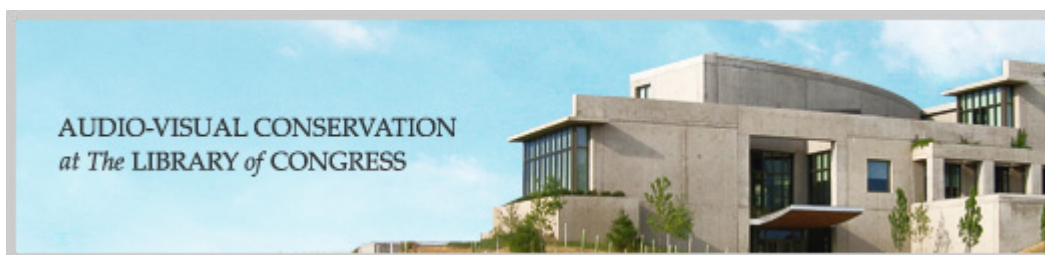
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